

SA722225

Portrait of Lady Mary Wortley Montagu (?) c.1720, by Sir Godfrey Kneller.

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA722225

Date of manufacture: 18th Century

Dimensions

Height = 99 cm (39.0")

Width = 79 cm (31.1")

Depth = 5 cm (2.0")

Description

This is a fine work by Sir Godfrey Kneller, almost certainly of Lady Mary Wortley Montagu (inscription verso). The sitter, a celebrated writer and traveller, marks her place in a book, possibly her diary, whilst, lost in thought, she gazes to one side. The brushwork is typical of the artist's late style..assured and sophisticated..with quick, loose, almost flickering, brushstrokes. LADY MARY WORTLEY MONTAGU, née Pierrepont, (baptized May 26, 1689, London, Eng.—died Aug. 21, 1762, London), was the most colourful Englishwoman of her time and a brilliant and versatile writer. Her literary genius, like her personality, had many facets. She is principally remembered as a prolific letter writer; she was also a distinguished minor poet, always competent, sometimes glittering and genuinely eloquent. She is further remembered as an essayist, feminist, and traveller. She suffered an attack of smallpox while she was still a young woman, and she later pioneered in England the practice of inoculation against the disease, having noticed the effectiveness of this precaution during a stay in Turkey. Lady Mary had the British Embassy's surgeon inoculate her young son. Back home in 17...

Seller Details

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